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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1921.

If I am Sophocles, I am not mad; and if I am mad, I am not Sophocles.—Sophocles.

Washington Street Railways.
THE W. & G. F. E. CHARTER.

BEFORE considering how it happened that the Washington Traction and Electric Company failed in 1901, bringing the Washington Railway and Electric into being, it is of interest to spend a little more time with the Washington and Great Falls Electric which secured in 1900 the charter to buy the same roads already owned by the Washington Traction and Electric and merged under that name. Just why these men who had all these roads, and who had already merged them under the Virginia corporation, went to Congress for this second charter is not evident, unless it was to hide their operations and clean the slate.

As The Herald has said, this charter, secured for a second merger of roads already merged, made no mention of the merger accomplished. It merely gave the Washington and Great Falls Electric the right to buy these identical roads as if they still were operated individually for their individual account. That they were not is evident from the foreclosure of the holding company a year later. Maybe they were preparing in advance for that failure, which they had decided to bring about. It is, also, an incident that the company chosen to get the right of purchase already had it, but with a limited bond issue.

The Washington and Great Falls Electric had been originally chartered in 1892. It was a small affair with a stock limitation of \$50,000 and bonds limited to the amount of stock unpaid. This charter was amended in 1894 as to route, etc., with no peculiarity intruding, except that it also amended the route of the Eckington and Soldier's Home road whose name is not mentioned in the caption of the act which reads: "To amend an act entitled, 'An act to incorporate the Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway.'" This shows again how they did things in those days which are past. No one believes they can repeat, in this day.

The charter was again amended in 1896 when the power to purchase clause was added and the bond issues for such use extended to \$500,000. A month after getting this authority it took over the West Washington and Great Falls Electric road, organized in Maryland by allied interests. The combination dropped into the Washington Traction and Electric hat in 1899. It was then this particular tail was chosen from some dozen others of like financial inconsequence, to wag the dog.

This final merger charter went into much detail as to how it should acquire these roads already gobbled up in the Washington Traction and Electric by these gentlemen Robin Hoods. It was authorized to take over each road only as it got "the consent in writing of the owners of record of three-fourths of the capital stock of each company, or by the vote of the owners of three-fourths of the capital stock of each company represented at a special meeting called and held as prescribed by the by-laws," etc. As the Washington Traction and Electric owned each and all these roads, this provision was quite superfluous, or was what the old woman called a "subterfuge."

The stockholders of these companies were still further protected with scrupulous exactness. "Each stockholder of record"—the Washington Traction and Electric was all of them—had to be notified by letter of the purchase, and the right of court appeal and appraisal was reserved to aggrieved stockholders. The franchise of the W. & G. F. E. was also preserved as the operating charter of the merger and here probably will be found why this particular tail was chosen to wag the consolidated canine. But in every way the fact that there had been a prior merger of these roads was concealed from Congress.

The only restriction placed upon its activities was in the form of an amendment insisted upon by Senator La Follette, which provided that while this railway merger might own an electric power company, it could not merge it by receiving "a transfer of the property or franchise" of such company. This has proved of much consequence and has been of great value in protecting the patrons of the Potomac Electric Power Company in the matter of electric rates. It is this amendment the W. R. & E. wishes to get rid of for its own benefit, not for that of the folks who pay the bills. The Washington Traction & Electric had already merged this company with these railways and this new charter, thanks to the Senator, dissolved that much of that Mormon household.

Finally this very peculiar charter transaction gave the W. & G. F. E. the right to change its name to any other it might prefer, and it did change it February 4, 1902, to the Washington Railway & Electric which, strangely or not, differs only in the one word from that of the Washington Traction & Electric.

Same Old Question.
IN LONDON there were and maybe still are, two-story sightseeing cabs. The upper seats were reached via a ladder. In former days women seeking them labored slowly with skirts held closely around their ankles. The assisting caddy, growing impatient at such delay, used to exclaim: "Step right up, please, laigs ain't no treat to me." In these modern days all men have reached the state of mind of the caddy—"laigs ain't no treat" to any of them; they have become the commonplace.

Further interest in feet and that portion of the human anatomy immediately attached to them, the Literary Digest devotes ten pages to a symposium of expression on modern woman's dress. The query of them all is whether or not the young people of today are or are not now headed straight to the bow-wow. This is not a new question. It has reappeared periodically since the days of the Garden of Eden, when Adam neglected to kill the serpent.

There are those living who can remember it as of hoop-skirt days. It came again with low-cut waists, when an ailing wife asked her husband what the women wore at a dinner and he replied: "I do not know; I could not see under the table." It reappeared with exaggerated bustles. It was here with the street corner loungers, who waited and hoped on windy days. It came with the ballet and vaudeville, with the tube-skirts and when riding breeches replaced the old riding habit. It is as old as "Anne" and as perennial as is human nature.

Nor are cosmetics new to the world; they are only cheaper and in more general use so that the Washingtonian one March day declared "spring had come" as he saw that all the girls on parade on F street had been freshly painted. It is only a sense of humor with common sense which is needed until this vogue has also run its course, and the young daughter will not think of asking her mother if she is not now old enough to wear short skirts.

Suggestion is always more dangerous than is reality, just as insinuation is more harmful than fact. Women have taken their places side by side with men in all vocations. Sisters go to work with their brothers and very often wives have employment with husbands. No man needs now to guess, or imagine, as to what his eyes plainly reveal to him. The appeals of suggestion, the wiles of the unveiled, have become the ordinary of reality. The tendency is to the ultimate of good comradeship on a common human level without distinction of sex.

The "Peep-Toms" to catch a glimpse of girls in athletic dress, are of the past. It is hard to believe there ever was a time when men were not allowed to see girls in athletic contests or drills, or when boys and girls did not swim together in swimming tanks wearing identical "costumes." Prudery is being replaced by of-course, and business men who used to employ only pretty girls, are now drawing the line at an over-indulgence of lipstick and an over-scarcity of dry goods.

Oh, well. We didn't want a job with Mr. Edison, anyway.

A Clearing Storm.

IT IS mighty hard to tell what Lloyd George and Briand mean by what they say. Sir Phillip Gibbs, in his remarkable analysis of the character of these men, in his letter published in The Herald of last Sunday, showed their similarity in personal history and methods. Turned conservatively through the necessity of the immediate situation, yet liberals in sympathy, both are radical by temperament.

Either is apt to break loose under the stress of occasion, and either is just as apt to have this appearance for the carefully considered purpose of effecting a result. Which was the fact as to the seemingly inopportune and firebrand speech on the Silesian situation, Lloyd George alone knows. But he threw down the gauntlet at the feet of France and Briand promptly picked it up. Lloyd George plainly implied that Great Britain favored all of Upper Silesia to Germany and that, if the Polish insurrection persisted, his government would support Germany in resisting by armed force.

Briand quickly replied that, if Great Britain had supplied her proportion of troops to the allied army, the insurgents could have been driven back, that Upper Silesia should go to Poland, and that, if German troops moved against Silesia, France would move to support Poland. It looked like a distinct break, but it may have been but a diplomatic play, a bold move by Lloyd George and a checkmate by Briand.

There have been other as acute situations. One will be recalled when French troops advanced to Frankfurt without prior agreement with the British. But now, as then, a break of the British-French entente is impossible. Neither can possibly afford it. The stake of both is too great, and they are both in the same pot. They must play to the end together. Moreover, it looks as if this immediate storm would settle the general atmospheric conditions. It has centered attention on Silesia and made agreement the next thing.

Both sides must give way. It is very much the same as to every other controversy. Each side demands more than it expects to get, and will accept. If Lloyd George did not promise too much to Germany to pave the way to reparations acceptance, he can easily concede all France or Poland expects. On the other hand, France doubtless knows that neither Poland nor Germany should have all the disputed territory, but may have gone too far on her side. If division of the province is impossible, still it may be agreed to make Silesia an autonomous state.

However it works out, so it will work out. But Lloyd George's explosion and Briand's defiance may well be taken as scenes of the drama as a whole, and they will be useful in concentrating attention on Silesia, ending the long delay and settling the most difficult of the remaining problems of that document which may come to be known as the Treaty of Versailles or the Follies of Paris.

Mrs. Bergdoll, mother of the notorious Philadelphia slacker, was sentenced to a year and a day in the Federal prison for conspiracy to aid her sons. But it only takes the payment of a \$7,000 fine to have the sentence remitted. Now watch that pot of gold come to light.

The President is reported to have withdrawn his opposition to passage of the Borah disarmament resolution. Looks very much like making good on pre-election promises of co-operation between the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Funny how quickly Germany can dig up the cash when once convinced that excuses no longer will be of avail. Must have had it hidden away with those guns the allies couldn't find for so long.

Now 'tis said Uncle Sam will not have anything to do with Russia officially until all American prisoners are released. And by the time that happens there probably will be a new crop in the Soviet jails.



Views Of Visitors in Washington.

IRRIGATION NEEDED SAYS GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON.

"Irrigation is an absolute necessity if we are going to produce enough food to feed the American people," Gov. L. F. Harp, of Washington, declared yesterday afternoon at the New Willard Hotel. "Twenty million acres of this country are arid, which if properly watered, will not only prove the most productive farm lands in the world, but will open up an absolutely new agricultural field and will be a great inducement to the soldiers who are still out of work. The estimated cost of irrigating the land is \$100 per acre and a bill is now pending in Congress asking for an appropriation of \$250,000,000 to be expended in the next six years. The total sum is to be used as a revolving fund as soon as sections of this arid land are irrigated and the gain will be put back into the fund for the cultivation of another section. In eighteen years the total sum will be returned to the government, if all goes as expected."

"The production question is perhaps the most important problem that America now faces, and these regions must not be allowed to go to waste as they have in past years. With an enormous percentage of the population unemployed it is imperative that these new fields be opened."

TELLS OF NECESSITY OF PAVED HIGHWAYS.

The governor declared that the highways must be given even more attention than they are at the present time.

"With the great increase of automobile and truck traffic, roads all through the country must be improved," he said. "Only 25 per cent of the primary highways in the entire country are paved, the rest are dirt and a great part of them are poor dirt roads. No matter how good improved roads may be, steady rains quickly make them impassable to heavy motor trucks."

"I do not think that the increase of road traffic will do any harm to the railroads. As we approach normalcy there will be plenty of work for them to do and, of course, they should be protected until they are financially strong."

"Do you have much trouble in getting the boys to return to the farms in Washington?" the governor was asked.

"Not much," he said. "The thing that has made the farm labor question difficult is that the boys who were in the service got used to having a lot of other men around them and now it is hard to get them to go back to the rural districts where, to say the least, life is not exciting. But with the automobile, the telephone and the community centers that are established all through the State, the boys are being given more inducements."

COMMUNITY CENTERS IN COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

"Schools in the country districts of Washington are just as good as the city. The great thing in the country is the building of community centers, where dances and other social affairs can be given."

"Normalcy in this country will come within the next five years," declared the governor. "Financial and social conditions are improving rapidly. Of course, there will be many changes in the country, as there always are following big wars."

Gov. Harp is here in company with Govs. Campbell of Arizona, Louie of Ohio, and Mayberry of Utah. They are endeavoring to obtain a Federal policy toward the reclamation of Western States.



Horoscope For Today.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1921.

This is not a fortunate day, according to astrology. The sun, Saturn and Uranus are all in malefic aspect. Jupiter rules with kindly power late at night.

It is a time for women to take account of their own possibilities and to put little dependence on men. The stars frown upon all love affairs, but warning is given that there will be an added tendency to indulge in romance which will be unlucky.

Those who seek employment or desire to improve positions already occupied should postpone any action until a more favorable aspect rules. Saturn is especially unkind to the aged today, making for depression, irritability and misunderstandings on the part of younger persons.

Real estate transactions may not be so profitable under this rule as they were delayed until kinder planets direct.

Uranus now has power to make men and women uncharitable in their judgments. Scandal will be widely disseminated. New York and Washington are subject to especially sinister aspects in this regard.

The late hours of the evening should be auspicious for planning big enterprises of every sort, whether they concern trade, politics or civics.

Mars in Gemini will disturb the United States in many ways, astrologers declare, and for this reason the public mind will be easily inflamed by rumors and evil reports. Women who have business or professional projects to push should be quiescent until this rule of the stars passes.

Persons whose birthdate it is may have an eventful year. They should pay strict attention to business.

Am. Tel. & Tel. Co. Raises Its Dividend

NEW YORK, N. Y., May 17.—The American Telephone and Telegraph Company today declared a quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per cent, an increase of 1/4 of 1 per cent from the previous quarter. The dividend is payable July 15 to stock received June 29. This places the stock on a 9 per cent basis compared with 8 per cent, which has been in effect since 1917.

Good Americans in 100 Years? Sure, But Why Not First Use the Good Ones We Already Have—By Darling.



Open Court Letters to The Herald.

No anonymous communications will be printed in the "Open Court Letters to The Herald."

Constituents vs. Conscience.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: Mrs. Gold, the secretary to Senator Moses, says the majority of the Senators in the last Congress were opposed to the Sheppard-Towner bill, but they gave a favorable vote on it to please the ladies. Thus the most august law-making body in the country tumbles. It was announced at the time that Senator Brandegee made a powerful speech against the bill, yet voted in its favor to please his constituents. Representative John Philip Hill said the other day that he went along the line of the Constitution and his country, it is imperative that he do it when his country is actually menaced with revolution or destruction through the hands of legislation. The Sheppard-Towner bill is about as big a jump into complete Socialism as could be desired. The House, Mrs. Gold says, turned it down because of its paternalism and socialism. Socialism, brought into full play, would eventually mean the same chaos that we are now witnessing in Europe. The Sheppard-Towner bill is a Socialism sure enough, but conscientious men must call a halt or we are lost.

FRANCIS R. LIVESEY, West Friendship, Md., May 6.

British Propaganda Means.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: I offer this for the convenience of your readers who, I see, are having rather hot arguments in your columns on the Irish question. As to England flooding the country with propaganda, and it being denied by certain people that England did and does not do this sort of thing, I offer the following taken from the March 18, 1918, number of Harper's Magazine. Sir Gilbert Parker, who had charge of the distribution of British propaganda in the United States, boasts of the part which he played in the winning of his country into the hell of war in the following language: "I need hardly say that the scope of our propaganda department in America was very extensive and its activity very wide. We kept in constant touch with the permanent correspondents of American newspapers in England; we arranged interviews for these correspondents with prominent Englishmen, and we furnished each newspaper in America with an English newspaper. We influenced the man in the street through motion picture shows, articles and pamphlets, replied to letters of American critics. We advised and stimulated many persons to write articles. We used the friendly services and assistance of confidential American friends. We established associations for propaganda by personal correspondence with influential people in every profession, beginning with university and college presidents, professors and scientific men running through all ranges of the clubs and newspapers. We had 1,900 propagandists in America."

I'd suggest to "Justinian" that he go to the Congressional Library and familiarize himself with some book on the American Revolution, written by Americans.

I believe, as did one of your correspondents in the column on May 11, that America should wake up and make the whole world see her eyes. The only way to fight these propagandists is to celebrate properly the day we obtained our independence, July 4.

Thank you in advance for putting this letter in your columns. I remain, sincerely, E. M. O'SULLIVAN, Washington, May 14.

New York City Day By Day.

New York, May 17.—Tin Pan Alley is facing a song writer's strike. And the news the music publishers submitted their fat pouches in a wild outburst of healthy chortles. For the truth is that all of them have enough songs covered with dust in their safes to last a generation. And song writers are generally about a dime ahead on pay day.

The song writers want a lot of things—but mostly money. They are holding feverish meetings every other night, smoking many cigarettes and panning publishers. It is a precarious game—this making the nation's ditties. And a lot of frail, aesthetic youths in their early twenties are doing the job.

About a dozen are able to ride in limousines and be seated at on first nights. The rest have a few dollars in the bank and shabby music boxes. The days are lean. Young Jews have for the past ten years written the majority of hits.

My acquaintance includes such top-notchers as Irving Berlin, Bud De Sylva, Harry Carroll, Dave Stamper, Earl Carroll and Grant Clarke. They are not accomplished musicians. Earl Carroll plays the piano with one finger. Dave Stamper never had a music lesson. But they have an uncanny way of composing songs that hit the mood of the public.

Their songs are mostly a flare-back from the underworld syncope—the jazz and shimmy music. They are able to take this wild stuff—the moans and shrieks—with its sighs of sadness and regret, its morbid sentiment, its wild blaze of passion, its turbulent outbursts and make a song for the parlor.

The strains have the vigor, the indelible impress of dare-devil honky-tonk improvisation. A song hit is, of course, worth achieving. It results in an independent fortune. If it lands with an honest publisher, George M. Cohan's song "Over There" made \$40,000 when he sold



The Herald Scientific Notes and Comments.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1921. Medical Society, Medical Society Building, this evening, 8 o'clock. Regular weekly meeting.

TELLS VIVID STORY OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC WEALTH.

Some of the economic and mineral wealth of China which will be available when the roads penetrate into Western China and connect it with the Eastern Coast was described by Emil L. Fischer, of New York, at the meeting of the Geological Society of Washington last night at the Interior Building. The great province of Szechwan, rich in minerals, man-power and agriculture, but poor in transportation, can only be opened to American commerce by railroads reaching across the mountainous barriers that separate it from the East. Fischer pointed out. From Ta Chien Lu, the great Tibetan trading center, which lies on the high way from Peking to Lhasa, millions are transported annually into Tibet.

How Great Britain wishes an outlet from the Assam Plains into Tibet and how she has been attempting to subdue the wild native tribes between Batang and Lhasa that have been blocking her way into this rich territory, was told by Fischer.

The high gorges and rapids of the Yangtze-Kiang River, the great irrigation works that have stood for 2,000 years as the savior from famine of 50,000,000 inhabitants, and that section of eastern China that has recently been swept with famine were among the features of his year-long trip illustrated by pictures.

In the 218,533 square miles of Szechwan, an area equal to all of New England, New York State and Pennsylvania combined, there is not a transport cart or carriage drawn by an animal. Only the backs and shoulders of coolies furnish the transportation for the riches of the province. Hundreds of thousands spend their lives as beasts of burden and conditions now are exactly what they were fifty years ago when explorers first penetrated there," said Fischer.

"Ta Ning Chang, an old salt producing section, is so rich in this mineral that the high water of the brine flows wastefully into the river. Coal is available in large quantities. In another small area the government collects \$1,000,000 a month in salt taxes alone."

Eastern China, where the great famine has swept away multitudes, is a relatively short distance from the fertile fields of Szechwan, which produce enough to feed amply all the Chinese, but the ancient primitive transportation prevents commerce between the two parts of the country, Fischer pointed out.

OIL CHEMISTS HEAR ABOUT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Governmental scientific research should be organized so that each investigative unit deals with a given field of work or a certain commodity, not a theoretical or didactic division, he told the members of the American Oil Chemists' Society at Chicago yesterday.

"While chemistry, botany, biology and the other sciences must each be utilized in tackling a certain problem, they must be blended and used together," he pointed out. "Neither pure research in applied science be organized under the theoretical divisions of the economist, such as agriculture, transportation, trade or commerce."

Industry would receive even greater practical benefit than now from technical research, whether governmental or private, if the investigations are organized according to the divisions of the chemist, who control and devise processes for extracting and refining edible and technical oils and fats used in foods, drugs and the industries.

GLASS OF "POP" BOTTLE WILL FIZZ LIKE SOFT DRINK.

The fizzing, cooling soft drink and the glass of the bottle that contains it are much alike. Like the "pop" the glass contains dissolved gases that will cause foam to form on the top. In fact, the drink and the bottle both have the properties of a liquid, except that the bottle is not fluid. When a bottle of pop is opened, the gas escapes and the pressure, the liquid effervesces violently, owing to the rapid escape of the dissolved carbonic acid gas. Prof. Edward W. Washburn, Frank F. Footitt and Elmer N. Rusten, investigators in the ceramic laboratories of the University of Illinois, have found that ordinary glass behaves in a similar manner when treated in the same way. In an experiment, glass was heated in a closed furnace until it was in a fluid molten condition. The pressure inside the furnace was then suddenly reduced by connecting the furnace to a large vacuum pump. Instantly evacuated with an air pump. On opening the furnace after it had cooled, practically all of the glass was found on top of the pot in the form of a large mass of white foam filled with countless tiny bubbles of gas. Analysis of the evolved gas showed that it consisted of oxygen, nitrogen and carbonic acid gas.

CAUSE OF FAT RANCIDITY DISCOVERED.

Rancidity, that yearly spoils a large number of fatty food products, has been found to be a chemical change or alteration in the composition of fats due to the action of air under conditions. Robert H. Kerr, of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, told the American Oil Chemists' Society at Chicago.

A large amount of research on rancidity just completed, it has been found that the action of the air is promoted by several accessory factors, chief of which are heat, light, moisture, and contact with certain metals, notably copper and zinc.

"Rancidity can be absolutely prevented by complete exclusion of air and can be delayed by avoiding exposure to air under conditions favorable to oxidation," he declared.

In the island of Palawan, one of the Philippines, a long subterranean river has been explored by the Coast and Geodetic Survey. It is navigable for a small boat for a distance of about 2 1/2 miles from its mouth.

W. D.